

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CASABL 00118 280810Z
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-06 (ISO)W
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FM AMCONSUL CASABLANCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5243
INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS CASABLANCA 0118

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, MO
SUBJ: FY-78 NEA CONSULAR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 018934

1. POST REPLIES TO QUESTIONS IN REFTEL:

A. MARHABA HOTEL, THE ONLY ONE OF THREE ACCEPTABLE HOTELS IN CASABLANCA WHOSE RATES ARE ANYWHERE NEAR LOCAL PER DIEM. IF CONSIDERABLY INCREASED PER DIEM COULD BE AUTHORIZED, POST COULD RECOMMEND BETTER HOTEL.

B. 110 DIRHAMS FOR SINGLE, 150 DIRHAMS FOR DOUBLE, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST INCLUDED. HOTEL ALSO PROPOSE SPECIAL PENSION PRICE INCLUDING ROOM, CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST, AND LUNCH, SINGLE 140 DIRHAMS, DOUBLE 210 DIRHAMS. PENSION PRICES APPLY ONLY IF ENTIRE GROUP AT HOTEL TAKES THE DEAL. N.B. POST HAS NO SNACK BAR AND ANY DECENT, EVEN LIGHT LUNCH PURCHASED IN LOCAL HOTELS OR RESTAURANTS RUNS ABOUT \$10.00 PER PERSON. POST SUGGEST THAT EVEN FOR MARHABA, \$39.00 PER DIEM SIMPLY WILL NOT SUFFICE NEEDS OF CONFEREES. (ALSO SEE RABAT CABLE 0132 OF JAN. 9, 1978).
TODAY'S EXCHANGE RATE (WHICH FLUCTUATES EVERYDAY) IS 4.30 DH TO THE DOLLAR.

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C. SINCE POST HAS NO EATING FACILITIES AND THERE ARE NO RESTAURANTS OR CAFES WITHIN REASONABLE WALKING DISTANCE OF CONGEN, POST IS TRYING TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT HOTEL IN ORDER

TO MINIMIZE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AS WELL AS TO HAVE MAXIMUM SPACE. MARHABA HOTEL CHARGES 200 DIRHAMS PER DAY TO RENT CONFERENCE ROOM. IF CONFEREES PAY PENSION PRICES, CONFERENCE

ROOM WOULD BE FREE. WILL DEPARTMENT SUPPLY FUNDS TO PAY FOR RENTAL OF CONFERENCE ROOM? ALSO HOTEL CAN PROVIDE COFFEE, TEA, JUICE AND ROLLS, FOR COFFEE BREAK AT 8 DH. PER PERSON PER DAY. WILL DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ANY FUNDS FOR THAT?

D. DOES DEPARTMENT WANT A STENOGRAPHER/SECRETARY AS NOTETAKER TO WHOM PARTICIPANTS WILL POINT OUT SPECIFIC EXCHANGES TO BE RECORDED? OR SHOULD NOTETAKER BE AN OFFICER, PREFERABLY WITH CONSULAR KNOWLEDGE?

E. POST CAN ARRANGE PHOTOGRAPH OF CONFERRES FOR INCLUSION IN DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER.

F. NONE FOR STAYS OF UP TO 90 DAYS.

G. POST WILL BE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH CUSTOMS/IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES AND TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT.

2. WILL DEPARTMENT PLEASE ADVISE PARTICIPATING POSTS TO ADVISE CASABLANCA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHO WILL BE ATTENDING CONFERENCE, ETA AND ETD INFORMATION, AND WHAT TYPE HOTEL ROOM NEEDED?

3. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT, IF ANY, SECURITY MEASURES POST SHOULD TAKE.

(REF. STATE 125022 OF MAY 24, 1976).

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